

Quid Novi

VOL. VI NO. 24

MCGILL UNIVERSITY FACULTY OF LAW
FACULTE DE DROIT UNIVERSITE MCGILL

April 9, 1986
9 avril, 1986

BYE-BYE BETTINA, MUCH LUCK MARIA!

LAW LIBRARY

by Terry Pether ^{APR 14 1986}

If you see somebody whirring and chomping her way through Chancellor Day Hall like the Tasmanian Devil through Bugs Bunny's forest, that's L.S.A. president-elect, Maria Battaglia. A native Montréaler, Maria brings to her post boundless enthusiasm that marked her stints this year on the social and banquet committees and as B.C.L. I class president, to say nothing of her busy campaign for higher office. As a first year student, Maria felt that a visible campaign, especially among upper year students, was essential to her success. Even with the encouragement she received from students in all years, Maria was surprised at the election's outcome.

Careful not to commit herself to a mixed bag of goodies which she would ultimately be unable to deliver, Maria only promised to forge good communications between the faculty and the L.S.A. Through such relations, she hopes to engage substantive student participation in a variety of issues including curriculum change proposals and library expansion plans. On a more aesthetic level, Maria does have some ideas for the Pit and the cafeteria towards making the basement less like the dank abyss it doubtless was when old man Ross lived here.

On the social front, Maria has two goals. The first is to alleviate the sense of isolation that many students feel from within the Faculty of Law

by organizing events in conjunction with other McGill faculties and further, with other Montreal universities. Secondly, Maria will attempt to boost student interest in extra-curricular activities by posting a central calendar outside the Moot Court and dispatching the Class Presidents to spread the word about events announced thereon.

With first year fresh in her mind, Maria will be working throughout the summer on many plans, including some to welcome new students during orientation week in September. Onward from then, she anticipates a gainful term as an accessible L.S.A. President anxious for input from all students. So it's on with the job. Congratulations, Maria!

La Fédération des Femmes du Québec

par Normand Perreault
B.C.L.

Vous connaissez sans doute la rédactrice en chef du Quid, Debbie Raicek. Mais vous ne savez peut-être pas qu'elle manifeste un intérêt marqué (et apprécié) dans l'édification des personnes de son entourage et spécialement de celle de votre humble serviteur.

C'est surtout pour cette

raison qu'elle m'a demandé d'assister à une conférence portant sur la Fédération des Femmes du Québec donnée par la présidente, Mme Ginette Busque. Merci chère rédactrice en chef ce fût, et je le dis en toute sincérité, très intéressant.

Devant un groupe d'au plus six personnes (malheureusement) Mme Busque a discoursé informellement mais fort éloquemment sur les origines de la Fédéra-

tion, ses objectifs, ainsi que sur quelques uns de ses dossiers de travail.

La FFQ. La Fédération célèbre cette année son 20e anniversaire. Fondée en 1966, sa création a d'abord été conçue à l'occasion du 25e anniversaire du droit de vote des femmes au Québec. C'est sous l'instigation de Mme Thérèse Casgrain que des femmes se

ANNOUNCEMENTS

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

Wednesday, April 16, Last
Day of Classes

All Essays and Term Papers are due at the S.A.O. no later than 5:00 p.m. Any extension must be authorized by the Associate Dean.

Monday, April 21, -- Wed-
nesday, May 7 -- Winter
Term Examinations

Please check Notice Board #3 for more detailed information.

Thursday, June 12, 2:30
p.m., Place des Arts --
Convocation

Have you returned the information and fees requested by the Registrar's Office?

Early Course Selection
Material will be ready for handout at the S.A.O. not later than the beginning of May and in all likelihood during the last week of April.

Friday, June 6 -- Deadline
for Early Course Selection
to reach S.A.O.

Exam Numbers

Students are requested to pick up their exam numbers at S.A.O.

McGill Campus Legal Aid Clinic Summer 1986

MCLAC will be back in business as of Monday, May 12th. Anyone who might be interested in contributing to MCLAC activities this summer is encouraged to either speak with any of the directors or to show up at the clinic after May 12th (Student Union Building, Suites B-20, B-21; tel: 392-8918)

Model U.N. Information Meeting

There will be a short information meeting for those persons interested in participating in the simulation of the International Court of Justice at this year's Model U.N. (July 7-12) in Montreal.

The meeting will be held on Thursday, April 10, 1986 at 1:00 p.m. in Room 203.

Anyone who cannot attend, but would like further information may leave a note at SAO to the attention of John Relton.

The Sports Committee extends hearty congratulations to the winners of the Athletic Awards for 1985-86:

Del Daignault
Debbie Duncan
Richard Quon
Nick Vlahos

Honourable mentions go to the Interdicts basketball team, for their intramural championship, and to the Lady Jocks of this Faculty, whose good sportsmanship and high levels of enthusiasm brought them a Participation Award at the recent Intramural Awards Night.

Congrats to all for a great year!

Quid Novi is pleased to announce the editorial staff for 1986-87:

Editor-in-Chief:

Terry Pether

Associate Editor:

Norman Perrault

French Editor:

Brigitte Catellier

News Editor:

Linda Adams

PLACEMENT CENTRE

Professor John Brierley is seeking two students for Summer research activity, for the period May, June, July and August (18 weeks), in the Faculty, on a full-time basis. The qualified person would be expected to have an excellent reading knowledge of English and French. Those interested in being considered for the post should call 392-4257 for an appointment or leave a message. (See posting in Placement Centre.)

Some professors within our Faculty will be seeking students to work for them during the summer months to help with research, case-book preparation and the like. Those students who would be interested in these positions should submit a C.V. and available marks to Mrs. Higgins in the Admissions Office. Those selected will be contacted directly by the professors themselves.

We would like at this point to extend our thanks to all of you who helped make our first full productive placement year such a success. We wish you all good luck with your examinations and best wishes for a great summer.

André Lemieux &
Suzanne Higgins

Adjoins de Recherche

Deux postes de recherche. Révision de deux manuscrits écrits en français (crédits documentaires; "joint ventures" en droit comparé). 16 semaines. Demande de financement pas encore approuvée. C.V. au Prof. de Mestral.

New York, New York—Part II

Dateline.

9:37 p.m.: Groucho Marx once said that when it's 9:37 in New York it's 1937 in Los Angeles. That may be true, perhaps, or even an understatement, for it can be said that things happen in New York faster than anywhere else in the world, and for good reason.

Richard "Dick" Janda's recent article documenting Columbia and New York's attraction for certain Canadians provided me with two bases on which to write. I had previously passed some years at Columbia, but on a much lower intellectual level than my confrères, and am currently one of those who participates in a legal experience called White & Case. What I say about Wall Street firms in general is not meant to describe White & Case in particular. These have become my impressions of practising law in New York.

There is no doubt in my mind that McGill is an excellent training ground for any type of practice, including one in New York. All the McGillites that I know have fit in extremely well here; in fact, they bring a new perspective that is a refreshing change from the typical Yale, Harvard and Columbia indoctrination one sees quite often.

But, without a doubt, what distinguishes the Ivy League recruit on Wall Street from others is, as Richard pointed out, that extra assertiveness and self-confidence that he or she possesses. However, don't fall into the trap of thinking that the Ivy's made them that way. In fact, the reality is that they were like that before they ever made it to first year law school. Those are precisely the reasons they made it there in the first place. Definite over-achievers.

The experience in New York, and the work that is being done there is unparalleled anywhere in the world. That is why things move so fast in New York. Time is money. Less time is efficiency. The ability to do a transaction and meet a deadline is what corporate clients need, mainly because they are not self-sufficient. As a result, the Wall Street practices are service oriented enterprises no different from the investment banks or the hot dog vendor on Broadway.

In absolute numbers, associates in New York are paid well. But in the context of the cost of living, those numbers become misleading. The hours are sometimes long, longer at other firms, too, since each firm has its "work ethic" which becomes translated into an ethos which

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ORYAQUINO FALLS FOR THE REFRIGERATOR - OR A MODERN MEDIA PARABLE

by Gary Nachshen

It was September, 1988, and People magazine had a problem: there were no more interesting celebrities left to write about.

Victoria Principal and Linda Evans were long gone, they and their steamy soap operas chased off TV screens by the AIDS scare (No more kissing scenes!) and replaced by innumerable avuncular Cosby-clones. The Dallas Cowboys were back on top again in the NFL, and football fans

everywhere know how dull that is. Arnold, Chuck, and Sly had all retired from the movies and gone to fat.

Nor was the celebrity scene much more promising in the field of politics. The upcoming presidential election was between George ("Boring") Bush for the Republicans and Senator Joseph ("Joe Who?") Biden for the Democrats. Ronald Reagan, meanwhile, had succumbed to advanced senility. Having overthrown every avaricious or blood-

thirsty foreign dictator who might possibly be of interest to People readers, he was not reduced to interfering in foreign cabinet shuffles. He had spent much of Labour Day trying to convince Brian Mulroney to bring back that redoubtable anti-Communist freedom fighter, Robert Coates.

Deep in depression over this calamitous turn of events, a People reporter glanced dejectedly through some back issues from the

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Editor-in-Chief Rédactrice-en-chef	Debra Raicek
Rédactrice française French Editor	Brigitte Catellier
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Photography Photographie	Hartland Paterson
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

I am writing to you about the referendum which was held today with regard to the proposed \$35 fee raise aimed at conferring membership rights in Thompson House on law students. As of now I have no knowledge of the outcome of this referendum but I am writing because I consider that the result cannot affect the validity of what I have to say. The LSA councillors are an elected, therefore representative, student body. In their wisdom (or lack thereof), they decided to submit to the general student body the question of joining Thompson House. At present, it is open for any student who is so inclined to become a member of Thompson House upon payment of the \$55 membership fee. If the law faculty joined as a group, however, the group rate would be only \$35, thus a savings of \$20 would be achieved for those interested in joining; but a net loss of \$35 would be sustained by those students not interested in joining.

It seems to me that this is a perfect example of the truth of Prof. Scott's oft repeated maxim: "No man's life, liberty, or property are safe while the legislature is in session." The L.S.A. appears to feel that if a majority of the students opted to join Thompson House then a mandate would exist for the rights of the minority to be sacrificed. Accordingly, an across the board fee of \$35 is contemplated in order to convert the wishes of the majority into corresponding financial benefit for the

majority. And who would bear the burden of paying for this scheme? Why, those who have no interest in joining Thompson House, of course. It would simply be another cost to write off, another addition to the already disproportionately high student society fees which students are forced to pay each year in order to earn their diplomas. Effectively, the L.S.A. rationalizes along utilitarian lines in valuing the greatest good of the greatest number as paramount. They fail to consider the loss suffered by those potentially in dissent as either relevant or meaningful. The fallacy of this mode of reasoning becomes evident when one considers that it is intrinsically unjust for the many to enrich themselves at the expense of the few.

Suppose that only one person indicated that he objected to paying an extra \$35 per year for the privilege of enjoying Thompson House's facilities. Would the L.S.A. then feel justified in sacrificing this individual's rights? Would the saving of \$20 by every other student in the law faculty justify the expropriation of \$35 of one student's personal funds? I don't think so. Furthermore, I don't think that the L.S.A. (my apologies to the L.S.A. members who opposed the motion for a referendum for including them in this indictment) has any business putting questions like this to the general student body to vote upon.

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La Fédération des Femmes Cont'd from p. 1

sont regroupées afin de promouvoir la condition féminine dans tous les milieux et d'effectuer les changements nécessaires à la reconnaissance des droits des femmes. La fédération regroupe maintenant plus de 45 associations en plus de plusieurs milliers de membres individuels répartis en conseils régionaux.

Objectifs. Il faut dire d'abord que la mission de la fédération est de travailler solidairement dans une perspective féministe à l'accès des femmes à l'égalité dans tous les domaines. Ainsi, ses objectifs sont: de promouvoir et défendre les droits des femmes; d'assumer un rôle de critique et de consultation, de concertation et de pression; et, de représenter le plus grand nombre de femmes possible.

Les Dossiers. La Fédération est impliquée tant au niveau national que provincial dans des dossiers couvrant une multitude de sujets économiques et sociaux, allant du domaine de la santé à celui du libre-échange avec les États-Unis, ou de la Paix internationale.

En ce qui a trait à l'avortement, par exemple, la F.F.Q. adhère à la Coalition pour l'avortement libre et gratuit qui vient de se former au Québec.

Au sujet des régimes de rentes et de pensions, on milite activement en faveur de la reconnaissance de la contribution économique des femmes au foyer; on voudrait aussi empêcher que les femmes qui quittent le marché du travail pour un certain temps, afin de se consacrer à leur famille, ne soient pas indûment pénalisées.

La Fédération préconise

une politique obligatoire de congé sans solde accru pour les nouveaux parents et un système de garderie universel.

Quant à la pornographie, on s'oppose surtout à la violence qu'on y retrouve et dont la cible principale est la femme.

Commentaires. Ce qu'il fallait retenir à mon avis de l'allocution de Mme. Busque, c'est que la grande majorité des revendications de la F.F.Q. ne doivent pas être vues sous un aspect exclusivement féministe; ces revendications, et surtout celle de la reconnaissance de l'égalité des droits de la femme, s'inscrivent bien plus dans un concept de société moderne et idéale que tous, hommes et femmes, auraient vraisemblablement intérêt à adopter.

Nul doute que dans la recherche perpétuelle d'une société meilleure, il faut étudier sérieusement sinon retenir les idées mises de l'avant par la F.F.Q.

Cory Aquino Falls for the Refrigerator Cont'd from p. 3

magazine's glory days in early 1986. Suddenly, he spotted a photo of the Chicago Bears' 320-pound running back, William ("The Refrigerator") Perry. Turning the page, he happened across a picture of Philippine President Corazon ("Cory") Aquino looking petite and demure in yellow.

"What a couple those two would make," he smiled morosely to himself. "That would certainly sell a lot of magazines."

With a start, he sat bold upright. It was not beyond the realm of possibility! After all, hadn't Cory gone five years without a man in her life since her husband's assassination?

And the Fridge had to be sick of that wife of his by now; they'd been married since they were teenagers, for Luce's sake. Surely it was time for a change.

Excitedly, the reporter charged into his editor's office and recounted his brain wave. Fingers shaking, the editor put through a call to the White House. Yes, replied the receptionist, President Aquino was coming to Washington for a summit meeting the following week. And yes, the White House would be pleased to reserve an entire table at her state dinner for the Refrigerator. An entire table for him alone, that is.

Finally, the big night arrived. With cameras clicking, the Refrigerator approached Cory in the

reception line. As he bent down to say a few words, her aides exchanged meaningful glances. Here was the solution to their continuing thug problem! Elections were rapidly approaching in the Philippines, and the Marcos forces were still way in front of Aquino in terms of goons on the payroll for Election Day. But this man Perry, if lured over to the Aquino side, would even matters up all by himself.

All through the dinner Cory listened to her aides' advice. What they said made good sense. Not only would such a marriage of convenience help solve her Election Day problems, but it fit in well with her re-election strategy, too. The widow of Benigno

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Serendipity and Just Crazy Weird Attention

Letter to the Editor
Cont'd from p. 4

Responsible student government does not consist in finding ways of taking advantage of Thompson House's cheaper prices for beer or in promoting elitism among law students to an even greater extent than occurs naturally. If the L.S.A. can negotiate a group rate for law students that is optional, well and fine; but otherwise, let those who want to join Thompson House do so at their own expense, and let those who can't afford such frivolities or who are disinclined to join for other reasons not be asked to fund such projects.

Yours truly,
Stephen McNamee
BCL I

Dear Editor,

Student debate has never been known for thoughtfulness and consideration, but last week it hit an all-time low. The previous week, two students had written letters to the Quid criticizing Skit Nite for jokes and sketches they considered to be sexist and offensive. Last week, the rebuttals came in. Some were well thought-out; others were not. One in particular singled out one of the original writers and attacked her personally. Apparently, the author considered it unfeminine not to laugh at his jokes.

There's not much to be said about this kind of attitude; it speaks for itself. But it certainly makes the criticisms that were levelled against this year's Skit Nite seem a lot more justified.

Joe Kary

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Ode to the Class of '86

by Mark Ciarallo

Parting shots? No way. That would be just a little too serious for such a serious guy. Right. Well for the past year I've been writing some pretty strange articles (those you probably skipped over) about Forbe's F, the patrimony of quartz and other such things. Well enough of those worldly concerns. Today, I reflect back on four years on the Peel Hill, known to us as Chancellor Day Hall. You're probably asking yourselves "why I would be want to reflect on such a 'ghastly' place?" Well, it's quite simple.

ANGINA YEAR

All of the class of '86 remember that first day, that first meeting, in that place called "The Moot Court" (my legal training keeps tapping me on the back, telling me not to make any such presumptions). Roger Cutler and Dean Brierley introduced us all to that acceptance letter institution. We were all proud to be there that day. We had worked long hours and it had finally paid off. I remember the free beer and hot dogs! Not a bad place, I thought -- I hope they feed us every day. There was the Dean's reception, Obligations I and II, Moots, the Canada Law Games, Intramurals, student government, and a host of other activities. The year was anxious at times, but through hard work and tenacity, we made it. Well, I thought, that was tough but worth it. Next year, Monte, we work on a social life.

RES JUDICATA

The work load didn't get any lighter but we all managed to adapt to the pace of law school. We no longer were on the outside looking in, we were actually getting our feet wet. Things seemed to be going well, the class of '86 was starting to gel. We were making friends. Law school was starting to actually pigeon hole itself into my life (and most likely into all our lives). Law school friends were becoming friends, period. I even learned to use the library.

THIRD YEAR OSSATURE

You know things are actually getting fun here. They have a place called Thomson House where people get together just to hang out. A rumour circulated that law students have a good time there. Professors even show up "de temps en temps". Halloween was weird.

HOMERUN

This will probably be my best remembered year. Our little fraternity enjoyed itself immensely. Most importantly I think that gratitude on behalf of the class is due to all those who made our four years manageable. Of course this includes our families and friends. But thanks must be extended to those within the faculty, the professors, staff, library crew and our favourite friends at SAO, Maria and Anne. Too short, but brevity is best. Oh, Gidge, in passing, we really weren't after "crazy weird attention". We just preferred green. To all those in the class of '86, good luck.

McFisherman Day 1986

by Joe Starnino

I'm sure you're all aware of the pending suit, whereby the McGill Law Alpha Fishermen Club is suing CFCF radio co-host Tasso Patsikakis of the Aaron Rand show, for wearing our jacket and slander-ing us over the airwaves.

The Fishermen descended on the McDonald's on Rock-land last Wednesday in order to serve Tasso with a writ, to begin proceedings. (Abe, the deadly bailiff, was unavailable). We wanted to do our civic duty and make the judicial system more expeditious and "com-bat discrimination at the federal and provincial levels."

Unfortunately, when we got there, we learned that Tasso was running scared

and he didn't show up! We tried to serve the writ on Aaron Rand, but he started screaming at the sight of us and immediately left the premises for the friendly confines of his radio booth.

The Fisherman gallantly pitched in to help replace Aaron behind the counter (he was moonlighting!). We donned our hats, aprons, and pitchforks and went to work revolutionizing the operations of this huge multinational. In other words, they'll never be the same!

Rod "Is the food free" Garson and Norm "That apron clashes with my shoes" Dionne took over operations of the drive-up window. Within minutes (literally), these two totally uprooted what had been a smooth-run-

ning operation in the Pre-Fish era.

Stormin' Norman, when asked about all the wasted stockpiles of drinks and discarded soda, answered simply: "Who cares? It costs money, but what's important is that I didn't spill any on my pants!"

Prairie Dog Garson, with one push of his little pinkie, managed to shut down the whole "drive-up" computer system, and snarled up traffic for six miles.

Phil "Tax...is my life!" Friedman did his best to assure as few return customers as possible, by asking all the fat people, 'Why don't you take a Diet Coke with your 4 Big Macs, you tub of lard?"

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Fisherman to Guest Star on Love Boat

by Seti Hamalian

Montreal (MLAFC Press)-- The McGill Law Alpha Fishermen Club has been contacted by Stephen Spielberg and the New York City St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee. Both parties have expressed a keen interest in having the Fishermen participate in various projects.

Re the New York offer, the MLAFC is pleased to announce that indeed they will be participating in the Big Apple's celebration of St. Pat's day next year, provided Marty "paper is almost over" Rosenbaum can get a slightly larger convertible with Vermont plates. The car must be a neutral colour, so as not to clash with the now famous "Fishermen look".

The green Vermont plates will be a "cute" touch.

The offer from Stephen Spielberg is being reviewed by the MLAFC's head negotiating committee for public broadcasting rights, namely the Richard Kurland committee of one. R.K. busy with the Tasso Patsikakis file earlier in the month, will now be assisted by George Rontiris. The latter, who has expressed a desire to expand his horizons beyond the limits of the service industry, will turn his attention to the Spielberg request that the Alphamen guest star on an episode of Love Boat. The plan has hit a snag, however, since the law firm that has given both P.E.T. and Bruno Duguay a chance to earn a living has decided against

giving them time off to pursue their non-legal careers. However, Pierre "hye" Setlakwe will postpone his wedding.

The technical limitations of the original Love Boat cruiser will force Spielberg to use an oil tanker for the off-shore camerawork for this particular show. Senior Fishermen have convinced Joe "Star" Sardino and Rod "Escort" Garson that this special arrangement is not due to their particular physical characteristics.

While the script of the show is still in the drafting stages, it calls for the Fishermen to meet and fall in love with the Fish-

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McFisherman Day, 1986
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Bobby "I love N.Y." Katz is still at the restaurant, trying to figure which button is Coke and which button in Sprite. But he's making progress: he's found the cups!

Pierre "Spud" Setlakwe, rumoured to hold 89% of all preferred stock in Burger King, did his best to subvert McDonald's operations by disguising his voice as the manager of the restaurant, calling the President of McDonald's, Canada, and telling him to "stick your private parts in the french-fries fryer!"

Athan "Can you lend me a green jacket" Hadjis was the only member from the club who was allowed to handle any cash. (Note that he wasn't wearing a green jacket! Hmmm!). However, after leaving the restaurant with conspicuously overstuffed pockets (we thought it was food), he has disappeared from the

country and is rumoured to be vacationing in Hawaii with his close friends, the Marcos family.

Alan "Give me hair spray or give me death" Abramowicz was disgusted about the whole idea of manual labour. He tried to pick up "Wanda" the hostess, was shot down by her (as per usual), and went off to sulk in the corner.

Seti "I'm late for my car pool" Hamalian admirably handled the french-fries machine, fighting off the rest of the Fishermen to get this prestigious job. Unfortunately, Seti went a little overboard. I'm afraid that the crew at McDonald's is still digging out from under mounds and mounds of fried potatoes.

Richard "Who ordered the roast beef, medium rare" Kurland attacked the volunteer cops we were working with, throwing ice bombs at them as he manned the Coke machine. RTK managed to add "his own little flav-

ouring" to every drink given out, and I'm pleased to say that the restaurant's patrons are recovering nicely.

Fish Demerit Points to all those Fishermen who didn't show up and this includes: Marc "What?" Ciarallo, Richard "Don't bug me, I'm busy" Epstein, Marty "I have to finish my paper" Rosenbaum, Joe "Meeng-Ya" Tutino, Bruno "Call my secretary" Duguay, and Brian "Is it too late to buy my casebooks" Ward.

In closing, this Fisherman would like to say he had a great time in the club. I thank all those nuts I mentioned above for this chance to join the club. Unfortunately (or fortunately), most of them are graduating, so we'll be looking for new members in September (Fishermen and Fisherwomen).

P.S. Guys, before you leave, don't forget to leave me your summaries!

Fishermen to Guest Star
Cont'd from p. 7

erettes, have a falling out, and then a reconciliation at the ship's stern. Alan Abramowicz's desire to dress up as a Fisherette has been rejected. However, Norm Dionne's request that the camera be focused on him for a least 7 (his lucky number) 30 second stretches throughout the show has been accepted. This was a consolation to him, since Norm was ignored by the CBC camera crew this past St. Pat's Day. Brian "Jamaal" Ward will be the only Fisherman who will not be wearing shorts. (Those who are interested can ask him why.) As well, at Phil "french fries" Friedman's request and in the tradition of upholding human

rights at all levels of government and society, the Fishermen agreed to finish taping early on Friday and take Saturday off.

Keeping with ordinary practice the script calls for Mark Ciarallo and Robert M. Katz to make a grand entrance onto the show. They will arrive by helicopter and will lower themselves onto the tanker by stair ropes. Then the helicopter, piloted by Maître Seti Hamelin, will attempt a landing on the tanker as part of the thrilling and exhilarating conclusion to the show.

FLASH To save costs Spielberg insists that an empty tanker not be hired. Rather, the shooting is to take place using a fully loaded tanker resting off the coast of California and sitting on a cargo of heavy crude oil (\$9 a barrel and still no takers). All the MLAFC, save for the pilot, have expressed alarm that their lives, limbs, and more importantly, lime green jackets may be blown up by accident during the attempted landing of the chopper. When asked why the pilot is not concerned, Richard Epstein, the Fishermen's award-winning banner carrier explained, "Where he comes from, something like that would be an ordinary happening."

OF SIGNS AND TANGENTS

by Joe Kary

When Ursula Bellugi spoke at McGill on March 20th, she shared the stage with 3 interpreters. One translated her talk into American Sign Language, while a second translated it into French for the benefit of a third interpreter who made the translation into LSQ, or Langues des Signes de Québec. Dr. Bellugi is a world authority on the structure of sign language, and her various lectures explained what her

research had shown her about language and the brain.

Ironically, when she first began her studies of signing, Bellugi did not expect to find a language. She accepted the verdict of the linguistics experts that signing was an impoverished communications system, nothing more than a form of pantomime without any true grammar. This view still has its advocates, and one often hears it expressed by those try-

ing to deny that chimps and gorillas who can sign are capable of understanding language. Yet Bellugi's investigations reveal a language of amazing richness. Sign language does have a form of grammar, one imbedded in the 3-dimensional co-ordinates of space. The placing of a particular gesture, or the movements of the hands while making it, can modify the meaning of that gesture

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New York, New York

Cont'd from p. 3

seeps down from the partners up above. Conformity is usually of the essence and probably results more out of an associate's individual needs for security. However, initiative is viewed at a premium, with ideas and answers considered essential.

The key to working in New York is balance. Anyone who has read Jay MacCinery's Bright Lights, Big City (it will take two hours and is highly recommended for anyone venturing to New York) knows that such a balance can be distorted at times. In fact, Bright Lights, Big City (which I know has been read by many partners at our firm) is not really so much off the mark. People work hard and, at times, they party even harder. These party times become known as the "perks". As an associate, while you are expected to go the extra distance for the client, you are also treated very well. At times, even that is an understatement.

One can choose their own lifestyle in New York. The amount of work one takes on

is, in the end, a personal choice. I think most McGill students in New York are here for the experience and as such want to do as much as possible to learn as much as possible. I think that is a function of the fact that we have to pick up knowledge in areas that are not as emphasized at McGill because the legal professions in Canada do not rely on certain skills as much as New York firms do. I am thinking primarily in the areas of securities work and straight bank-loan documentation. In fact, when McGill students first arrive, they will invariably find that they are thrown into the fire of having to learn the precise nuances of a dozen documents. Within six months they can even expect to do some financing on their own.

Generally, the people with whom you work are excellent. There is no real sense of working against another firm unless there are "deal-breaker" points. The role of the New York lawyer is clear to both sides on any deal -- get the deal done. The partners negotiate the business points which, in my mind,

also determine the legal points. The lawyer then puts it all on the "hard-copy". In fact when lawyers don't want to make a "call" or "take a stand" then they say "Well, it's a business point".

Switching back to some personal thoughts, I don't think I could get any better legal training for the work I'm interested in than in New York. The learning curve is so steep that, at times, I feel it is paralyzing (which if you think about it, doesn't make sense). However, when anyone comes to New York, or indeed anywhere in life, it should never be seen as a final destination. For sure, New York becomes that. But for many others, it is just a resting spot, seen more as a development in their personal existence than anything else. Anyway, the world-wide allure which New York has as a metropolis makes it pretty clear that it will always be attracting many more people than all the studio apartments in the world.

Demetrios Xistris

Of Signs and Tangents Cont'd from p. 9

in complex ways. The language has no pronouns, at least none that can be compiled in a list. But what a sign language user will do is "fix" a noun in a particular space, and then point to that space later in the conversation when she wants to refer to that object again. This skill is, apparently, one of the last things that a child will pick up when learning sign language. Children studied by Bellugi who were just picking up the knack would often "stack" all their pronouns in one spot during the course of a conversation, making it impossible to know which noun they were referring to.

One of the most fascinating characteristics of sign language users is the incredible range of their facial expressions. It is as if freeing the mouth from its vocal duties allows a fuller range of expression. In fact, physiologists have found that the firings of muscles in a signer's face are far more precise than anything that can be found among spoken-language users. Where most people would activate a group of facial muscles, a signer might activate a specific muscle in that group, and the beginning and end of its firing will be precisely timed to hand gestures in a way that is highly unusual. Dr. Bellugi's interpreter apparently had a lot of fun translating this part of the lecture; when Bellugi spoke of facial "grimaces", the interpreter contorted her features into a horrible mask and made a motion as if to scratch her fingers across her face, drawing the biggest laugh of the talk.

Signing, like other languages, even has its own poetry. Similar signs at different angles or made with different motions are said to rhyme, and words can be chosen so that the end of one motion will flow into the beginning of the next, creating a form of rhythm.

Sign is revealed to be a language even on the level of neurophysiology. Experiments have shown that language ability is located in the left hemisphere of the brain, while visual imagery and spatial conceptualization are located in the right. Studies of sign users who have suffered brain damage to the right hemisphere reveal that, although their spatial conceptual abilities are impaired, their knowledge of the 3-dimensional structure of signing remains unaffected. One patient, when asked to arrange model furniture in a real room, simply piled up everything to one side; but when asked to describe the room, he "placed" the signs for the pieces of furniture in the appropriate spaces before him. By contrast, signers with damaged left hemispheres experienced difficulties with this visual grammar that were analagous to problems had by spoken-language users with similar injuries.

Such insights into sign language are unexpected, and they perhaps demonstrate how dependent are our notions of everyday reality on science and theory. Not only did Bellugi not expect to find a genuine language when she began studying sign, but, as she said, deaf people did not realize they had one either. In the beginning, deaf people would sometimes tell each other "oh, don't show her that -- it's slang". What

this meant, in fact, was that those were the gestures that could not be properly transcribed into the conventional systems for writing down signs, systems that were based on spoken language. It turned out that these were the genuinely unique characteristics of sign, and the sources of Bellugi's insights into spatial grammar and morphology. Perhaps it just goes to show that we don't even recognize the most basic aspects of our everyday world until someone, somehow, comes up with the conceptual framework to describe them.

Letter to the Editor Cont'd from p. 6

Dear Editor,

Contrary to Lenny Roth's beliefs, the "Women and the Law" group did not criticize Skit Nite. Denise Giroux and I signed our letters personally.

Carol-Lynne Saad

Dear Editor,

I cannot refrain from replying to Lenny Roth's unacceptable letter of last issue. In essence, his "argument" is that if a woman presents reasoned concerns regarding a perceived affront to women and Lenny Roth disagrees, the writer is not a real woman. This type of attack is an affront to any thinking person and deserves no place in this Faculty. Shame on you Lenny Roth.

Greg Bordan

CURRICULUM REFORM: A REBUTTAL

by Greg Bordan

Dan Bilak puts the argument in favour of recent curriculum reform forcefully. In essence, he makes two arguments:

(1) The majority view of the professors who have taught or are teaching the courses is favourable to the change. This was determined after extensive consultations. The professors are the best judges of these matters.

(2) The purpose of the reform "is to allow individual professors to design an advanced common law course for second-year B.C.L. students". The arguments about there being no redundancy between civil law and common law courses miss the point.

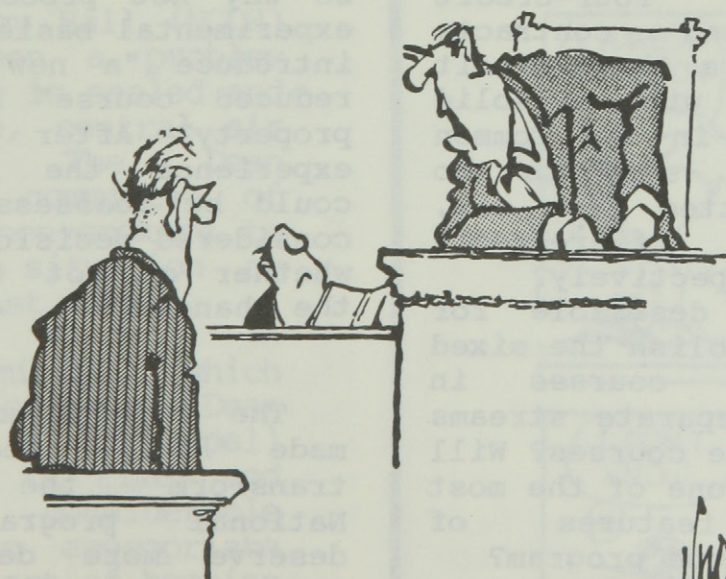
First, to answer these points directly. Of the seven common law professors who have taught the courses in the past two years, four were not consulted (two strenuously opposed the changes at Faculty Council, two were on sabbatical). I do not know the degree of consultation with the others, but it is misleading to leave an impression of unanimity amongst the faculty following extensive consultations.

Clearly professors must have the discretion to design their courses as they think appropriate. However, this principle is independent of the weight that should be attached to each course. Individual

professors will not be given greater freedom to tailor their material to second-year B.C.L. students by reducing the credit-weight of their courses by one third. At best, Dan's argument supports streaming B.C.L. and LL.B. students. It is irrelevant to the issue of whether the time allotted to private Common Law courses taken by B.C.L. students should be reduced by one third.

I should also point out that second-year B.C.L. students should not be taking "advanced common law courses". The B.C.L. student has one year of

Cont'd on p. 12

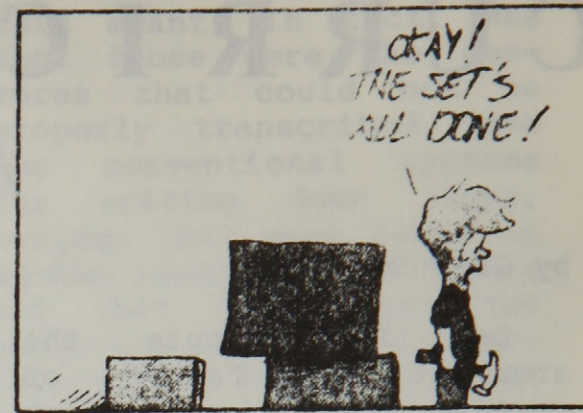
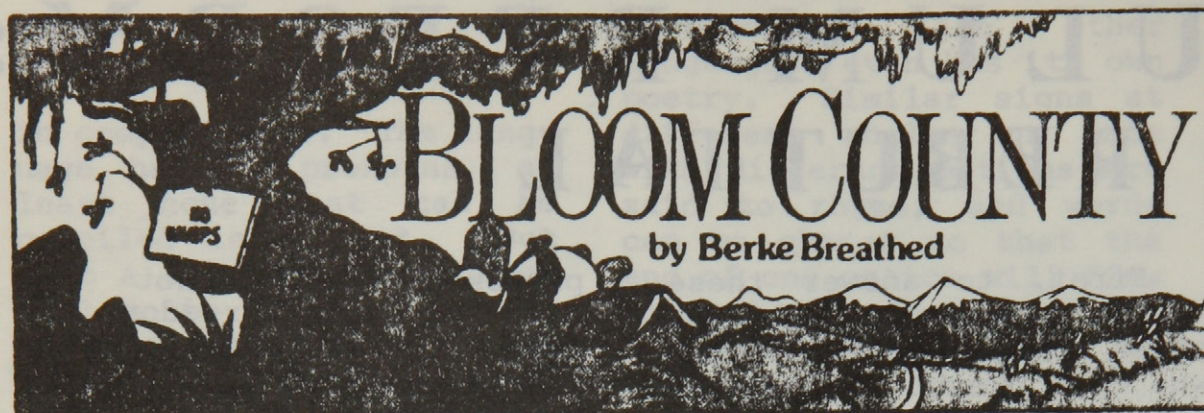


"What does the Guinness Book of Records say about dishing out long sentences?"

**Cory Aquino Falls for the Refrigerator; or
A Modern Media Parable**
Cont'd from p. 5

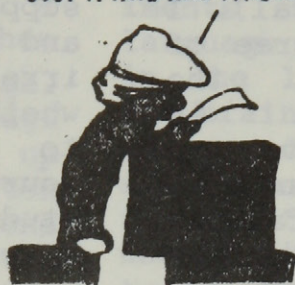
("Ninoy") Aquino, Corazon ("Cory") Aquino was allied politically with Salvador ("Day") Laurel. A second marriage to William ("The Refrigerator") Perry would surely clinch the nickname vote for her.

And so, a few days later, in the same Malibu chapel where Madonna had once wed Sean Penn, Cory and Fridge were married. Cory was re-elected, Fridge took up the sport of wild boar wrestling, and People's account of this latest "Thrilla in Marila" proved its best-selling issue ever.



The Harry Meadow Players present
**"A FEW MOMENTS
 AT THE NATIONAL
 ORGANIZATION OF
 LIBERATED MEN"**
 Cast:
 The Chairman... Mr. M. Bloom
 Ralph... Mr. P. Opus
 Frank... Mr. Portnoy
 Directed by Milo Bloom
 Set Design by M. Binkley

"AT 6:00, THERE'LL BE A
 TALK ON 'WHY MEN DON'T TOUCH...'
 AND AT 6:30... 'IS 'MACHO'
 JUST A HORMONE PROBLEM?'"

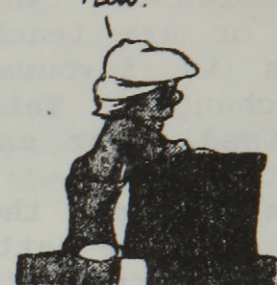


WH. SAY, RALPH... YOU LOOK
 TROUBLED... DO YOU WISH
 TO SHAKE YOUR FEELINGS
 WITH THE REST OF US?"



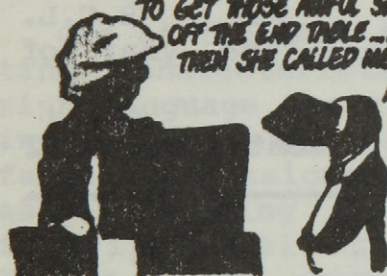
NO!
 THAT'S
 OKAY!

RALPH... WE'RE ALL
 SENSITIVE, CARING BEINGS
 HERE... LET YOUR EMOTIONS
 FLOW!



OKAY.

WELL... IT'S MY WIFE... SHE CAUGHT
 ME READING A "LADIES HOME
 JOURNAL" YESTERDAY... I EXPLAINED
 I WAS ONLY TRYING TO FIND A WAY
 TO GET THOSE ANKLE SMUGGLES
 OFF THE END TABLE... AND
 THEN SHE CALLED ME A...



"A WIMP!!
 SOB"

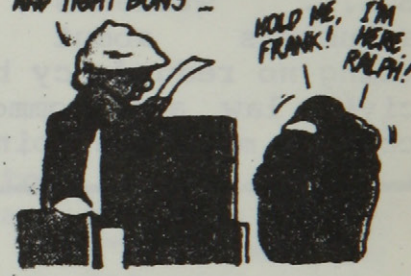


GOOD! THAT'S GOOD! FREE
 YOUR FEELINGS! ...OH FRANK?
 WOULD YOU COME UP HERE
 AND GIVE RALPH A "REASSURANCE
 HUG"?



SURE!

CONTINUING... AT 7:30, I'LL
 BE GIVING A LECTURE ON
 "THE IMAGE OF MEN IN
 AMERICA: STALE ROLES
 AND TIGHT BUNS"



HOLD ME, I'M
 HERE
 RALPH!

CURRICULUM REFORM: A REBUTTAL Cont'd from p. 11

legal education in civil law under his belt. But he must still cover the basic contracts, property and torts material. One year of civil law property, even under the new system, will not allow the B.C.L. student to skip the basics of common law property in favour of "advanced common law property".

The questions remain. For brevity, I summarize:
 (1) Will it be possible for second-year B.C.L. students

to finish four-credit property and contracts courses and a three-credit torts course with as solid a grounding in the Common Law as LL.B. students who have benefitted from six, six, and four-credit courses, respectively?

(2) Is it desirable for McGill to abolish the mixed B.C.L./LL.B. courses in favour of separate streams with separate courses? Will we not lose one of the most laudable features of McGill's unique program?

I suggest that the answers to these questions are far from self-evident.

So why not proceed on an experimental basis? Why not introduce "a new improved reduced course" in, say, property? After a year's experience the situation could be reassessed and a considered decision made on whether or not to extend the changes.

The curriculum changes made this year will transform the future National program. They deserve more debate and discussion at Faculty Council and amongst students than they have so far received.